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People's Theatre's exclamation mark

People's Theatre Gävleborg plays "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" by Bertolt Brecht in the fall. They become the first to play in the new, hydraulically retractable theater tent the "Variety Theatre" has produced. The show is directed by Pontus Stenshäll and premieres September 8 in Bergsjö, Hälsingland, Sweden.

A theater-Transformer set in the middle of the village. Optimus Brecht.

Mickey Mouse's mobile home on Christmas Eve's Disney TV program, the one with the retractable good weather, was one of the inspirations for Krister Lindgren's theater tent, but when I look at how the idea has been realized, it reminiscences toy cars that unfold into giant robots. The roof of a truck trailer opens up and blooms a 14-meter tall tent.

Arbetarbladet have previously written about theater tent as Folk Theatre performance "The Caucasian Chalk Circle" this fall will tour with. Krister Lindgren's Variety Theatre, and his wacky idea for a tent that holds 200 people in the audience, is 240 square meters and can be raised by remote control by two people in an hour, so I will not go into the technical details.

I can only conclude that it is exciting to finally see the tent was up, after he has been working on his tent in "blood, sweat and tears" for over half a decade. Now, the expectations on to see the theater played in the tent.

But the most amazing thing about Variety Theatre's Theatre-Transformer is not the technical solutions without the potential to put the theater in the middle of the village. When the People's Theatre has previously played out in the smallest towns, they have built up their scene in a community center, clinched up posters, put an ad in the local newspaper and hoped that the audience would find it.

Now they have a fifty feet high exclamation mark of black plastic that screams: "We are here!" This effect should not be underestimated.

Krister Lindgren's passion is to reach people who have not, as he says, "theater as a major leisure activity." He believes that the tent does not have the same threshold to cross to the audience as a more ordinary theater.

An unavoidable reference is of course the "Tent Project" which in the 1970s, traveled around Sweden and played up the labor movement's history.

The wall of the theater couldn't be thinner. A plastic membrane is the only thing separating those inside from those on the outside. Sound and music will seep through the pellicle to the reality outside. Hopefully, curiosity will lure someone in.

The tent can land anywhere in Gävleborg. Optimus Brecht is ready for battle on the audience's attention.

Kristian Ekenberg



Krister Lindgren